

REMARKS

The Examiner's recognition of Applicants' invention by the allowance of claims 1, 2, and 6 and the indication of allowable subject matter for claims 7, 8, 12, 18 and 19 is gratefully acknowledged.

In response to an objection, the specification is amended at page 3 for clarification. At page 5, reference numeral 22 is deleted, since the connectors do not appear in Figures 1-12 discussed in the paragraph.

Claims 7 and 12 are amended to correct grammatical and typographical errors.

Claim 17 is amended to more particularly point out that the isolated ground comprises a non-conductive insulator and a first electrical connection, as originally recited in claim 18, now cancelled.

The dependencies of claims 19, 20 and 22 are corrected following the cancellation of the intervening claim.

Provisional Election

A Restriction Requirement was imposed between the following species:

Species A in Figs. 1-8;

Species B in Figs. 9-12;

Species C in Figs. 13-16;

Species D in Figs. 17, 18, 20, 21, 25, 26A, 27B;

Species E in Figs. 19, 22-24;

Species F in Figs. 28-31;

Species G in Figs. 32, 33.

Applicants confirm the provisionally election to prosecute Species A of Figs. 1-8. Applicants also confirm the earlier designation of claims 1, 2, 6-8, 12 and 17-19 as reading on the elected species A.

Nevertheless, Applicants traverse the requirement and request rejoinder of additional claims following the allowance of the claim 1, the indication of allowability of claim 7, and the amendment of claim 17 to incorporate subject matter indicated to be allowable.

Applicants contend that claims 1 and 7, and amended claim 17 read on Species A, B and C, and thus are generic to these species.

Moreover, claim 3 is dependent upon claim 1 and is more particularly directed to the embodiment in Fig. 14 that includes a non-conductive guide member 60 and nut 62. Claims 4-5 depend on claim 3 and recite further limitations shown in Fig. 14. Thus, claims 3-5 should be rejoined.

Claim 9 is dependent upon claim 7, indicated to be allowable subject to correction of a grammatical error. Claim 7 reads on the embodiments shown in Figs. 1-8. Claim 9 is more particularly directed to the embodiment in Fig. 8 that includes an opening 48 in the non-conductive insulator 16 for securement member 43. Claim 10 depends on claim 9 and recites further limitations. Claim 11 depends on claim 7 and includes further limitations to tabs 44 as shown in Fig. 5. Thus, claims 9-11 should be rejoined.

Therefore, it is requested that claims 3-5 and 9-11 be rejoined. Further, at least for

the reasons indicating allowability of the independent claims, it is requested that claims 3-5 and 9-11 also be allowed.

Objections to the Drawings

An objection was made that the drawings failed to include numeral 22 called out in the specification. At page 5, reference was made to connectors 22 in Figs. 1-12. Upon review, the connectors do not appear in Figs. 1-12. Therefore, the description has been amended to delete the reference numeral.

In view of the amendment to the specification, it is requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn, and the drawings be accepted.

Objections to Claims

In response to an objection, claims 7 and 12 are amended to correct grammatical errors. Claim 8 was included in the objection, but no specific grounds were given. It is believed that the claim was included because it is dependent upon claim 7. If other grounds were found, Applicants request some guidance so that they may be corrected.

In view of the amendments it is requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by PCT Patent

Publication WO 00/74980 by Sauer et al. Claim 17 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication 2002/0074781 by Schutz.

Claim 17 is directed to Applicants' steering wheel and airbag module assembly that includes a floating horn switch comprising an isolated ground. The claim is amended to recite that the isolated ground comprises a non-conductive insulator secured to the airbag module and a conductive wire configured to engage at least one securement member of the steering wheel armature, and further comprises a first electrical connection secured to the conductive wire and a second electrical connection secured to a conductive portion of the airbag module. The cited art does not teach or suggest an assembly having these features, as acknowledged in the Office Action.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claim 17 based upon Sauer et al. or Schutz be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the claim be allowed.

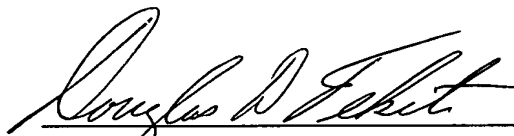
Conclusion

Claim 19 was objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim. In view of the amendments and remarks herein, it is believed that the base claim is now allowable. Accordingly, it is requested that the objection be withdrawn, and that all claims be allowed.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas D. Fekete", written over a horizontal line.

Douglas D. Fekete
Reg. No. 29,065
Delphi Technologies, Inc.
Legal Staff – M/C 480-410-202
P.O. Box 5052
Troy, Michigan 48007-5052

(248) 813-1210